

U.S. Appln. No. 09/931,660  
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2006

PATENT  
450100-03393

### IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

#### Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, comprising:  
  
judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring data through said network;  
  
multiplexing means for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party; and  
  
transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network.

2. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method for information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said method comprising:  
  
a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring data through said network;

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a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party; and  
a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network.

3. (Previously Presented) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring data through said network;

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party; and

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network.

4. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, comprising:

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judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring data through said network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said data; and

accounting means for determining the party determined by said judgment means to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.

5. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring an amount of data exchanged through said network; and

second acquisition means for acquiring a unit price per unit data for data exchanged through said network,

wherein said accounting means computes a price of transferred data on the basis of an amount of data acquired by said first acquisition means and a unit price acquired by said second acquisition means.

6. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said second acquisition means further acquires a sign of said unit price, and said accounting means drives said transmission side or said reception side determined to be a side not initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting in case said sign is negative.

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7. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing method for an accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring data through a network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said data; and

an accounting step of determining the party determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an accounting-processing apparatus for processing an accounting process of data transmitted through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring data through said network by determining if a first magnitude or a second magnitude is multiplexed in said data; and

an accounting step of determining the party determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.